

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A virtual encounter system comprising,
a mannequin having life-like features, the mannequin comprises:
a body;
a camera coupled to the body the camera for sending video signals over to a
communications network; and
a microphone coupled to the body, the microphone for sending audio signals over
the communications network; and
a set of goggles including a display to render ~~the video~~ electrical signals representative of
video received from the ~~camera~~ communications network and a transducer to transduce ~~the audio~~
electrical signals representative of audio received from the ~~microphone~~ communications
network.
2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the mannequin is at a first
location with the camera being a first camera and the microphone being a first microphone and
the set of goggles ~~is at a second location~~ being a first set of goggles, with the system further
comprising:
a second mannequin in ~~a the second~~ different location, the second mannequin having a
second microphone and a second camera; and
a second set of goggles to receive the video signals from the first camera and a second
earphone to receive the audio signals from the first microphone.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the communications network comprises:

a first communication gateway in the first location; and
a second communication gateway in the second location, the second gateway ~~processor~~ connected to the first gateway ~~processor~~ via a network.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the communications network comprises an interface having one or more channels for:

receiving the audio signals from the microphone;
receiving the video signals from the camera;
sending the audio signals to the set of goggles; and
sending the audio signals to the transducer.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the body includes an eye socket and the camera is positioned in the eye socket.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the body includes an ear canal and the microphone is positioned within the ear canal.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the set of goggles comprises a receiver to receive the video signals.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the mannequin comprises a transmitter to wirelessly send the audio signals and the video signals to the communications network.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of having a virtual encounter, comprising:
sending audio signals over a communications network, the audio signals being produced from a microphone coupled to a mannequin having life-like features;

sending video signals over the communications network, the video signals being produced from a camera coupled to the mannequin;

rendering the video signals received from the communications network using a display device embedded in a set of goggles on a second mannequin; and

transducing the audio signals received from the communications network using a transducer embedded in the set of goggles on the second mannequin.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

sending audio signals to the communications network from a second microphone coupled to a the second mannequin, the second mannequin having life-like features;

sending video signals to the communications network from a second camera coupled to the second mannequin;

rendering the video signals received from the communications network onto a monitor coupled to a second set of goggles on the second mannequin; and

transducing the audio signals received from the communications network using a second transducer embedded in the second set of goggles.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the first and the second mannequins includes an eye socket and the camera is positioned in the eye socket.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the first and the second mannequins includes an ear canal and further comprising positioning the microphone within the ear canal.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the set of goggles comprises a receiver to receive the video signals.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the first and the second mannequin further comprises a transmitter to wirelessly send the audio signals and the video signals to the communications network.

15. (New) A virtual encounter system comprising:
a mannequin having life-like features, the mannequin having a human-like body supporting:

a camera for sending video signals over a communications network; and
a microphone for sending audio signals over the communications network; with the system further comprising:

a set of goggles housing a display device to render video signals received from the communications network and a transducer device to transduce electrical signals received from the communications network into audio.

16. (New) The system of claim 15 wherein the mannequin is at a first location with the camera being a first camera and the microphone being a first microphone and the set of goggles being a first set of goggles, and with the system further comprising:

a second mannequin in a second, different location, the second mannequin having a second microphone and a second camera to send electrical signals representative of audio and video data to the display device in the first set of goggles and the transducer device in the first set of goggles; and

a second set of goggles to receive the video signals from the first camera and a second transducer to receive the audio signals from the first microphone.

17. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the communications network comprises:
a first communication gateway in the first location; and
a second communication gateway in the second location, the second gateway connected to the first gateway via a network and with the first gateway configured to couple to the camera,

microphone, display and transducer of the first mannequin, and the second gateway configured to couple to the camera, microphone, display and transducer of the second mannequin and

18. (New) The system of claim 15 wherein the body includes an eye socket and the camera is positioned in the eye socket.

19. (New) The system of claim 15 wherein the body includes an ear canal and the microphone is positioned within the ear canal.

20. (New) The system of claim 15 wherein the set of goggles comprises a receiver to receive the video signals.